

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 5-11, 13-15, 19-24, 26-28, 31-33, and 37 are pending. The Applicants' attorney has amended claims 1-2, 5-11, 19-24, and 26-28, canceled without prejudice or disclaimer claims 3-4, 12, 16-18, 25, 29-30, and 34-36, and has added new claim 37. As discussed below, the claims are in condition for allowance. If after considering this response the Examiner continues to reject some or all of the claims, the Applicants' attorney, Bryan Santarelli, requests that the Examiner phone him at the below number to schedule a teleconference.

Rejection of Claims 1-36 Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a) In View of U.S. Patents 4,649,541 to Lahmeyer, 4,567,594 to Deodhar, 4,868,828 to Shao, 4,677,623 to Iwasaki, 6,511,280 to Sammartino, and 5,583,499 to Oh

As discussed below, the Applicant's attorney respectfully disagrees with this rejection in light of the amendments to the claims.

Claim 1

Claim 1 as amended recites a processor circuit operable to store a portion of a first Reed-Solomon code word, the portion being less than the entire first code word, store a portion of a second Reed-Solomon code word, the portion being less than the entire second code word, and while storing the portion of the second code word, decoding the portion of the first code word and no other portion of the first code word.

For example, referring, *e.g.*, to FIG. 8 of the patent application, during a first period, a processor circuit receives a first portion I1,1 of a first Reed-Solomon code word, the portion I1,1 being half of the first code word. During a third period, the processor circuit receives a first portion I2,1 of a second Reed-Solomon code word, the portion I2,1 being half of the second code word. During the third period while receiving the first portion I2,1 of the second code word, the processor circuit also calculates a syndrome S1,1 for the first portion I1,1 (decodes the first portion) of the first code word. But the processor circuit does not calculate a syndrome or otherwise decode the second portion I1,2 of the first code word during the third period, *i.e.*, while receiving the

first portion 12,1 of the second code word. In other words, the processing circuit can effectively divide a Reed-Solomon code word into portions and decode each of these portions independently of the other portions.

In contrast, Lahmeyer does not disclose decoding a portion of a first Reed-Solomon code word and no other portion of the first code word while storing a portion of a second Reed-Solomon code word, where the portion of the first code word is less than the entire first code word. That is, Lahmeyer decodes an entire Reed-Solomon code word in a period, not portions of a Reed-Solomon code word in respective multiple periods.

Claims 5, 9, 10, 19, 23, 27, and 28

These claims as amended are patentable for reasons similar to those discussed above in support of the patentability of claim 1. As discussed above for Lahmeyer, the cited references viewed alone or in combination neither disclose nor suggest decoding a portion of a Reed-Solomon code word independently of other portions of the code word where the portions are smaller than the entire code word.

CONCLUSION

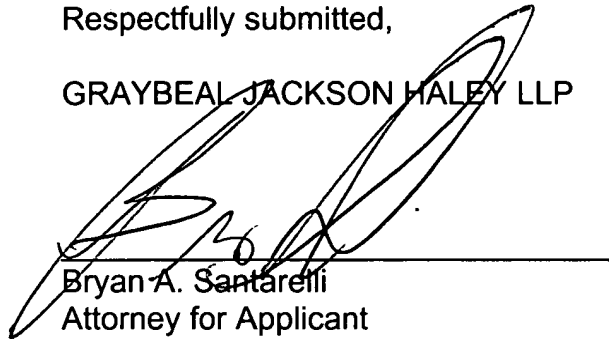
In light of the foregoing, claims 13-15 and 31-33 as previously pending, claims 1-2, 5-11, 19-24, and 26-28 as amended, and new claim 37 are in condition for full allowance, and that action is respectfully requested.

In the event additional fees are due as a result of this amendment, you are hereby authorized to charge such payment to Deposit Account No. 50-1078.

DATED this 30th day of September, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

GRAYBEAL JACKSON HALEY LLP

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Santarelli', is written over a horizontal line.

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